POLIPODIUM fragile.

Sp. Plan. 1553. *Ray Syn.* 125. *Flo. Scot.* 677. *Park.* 1043.

TAB. XXVII.

BRITTLE POLIPODY.

THE body of the root conſiſts of the ſtumps of old leaves which remain undecayed for a conſiderable time in the ground; they are covered with brown ſcales, and furniſhed with many fibres below, taking firm hold in the place where it grows.

The firſt leaves from five to nine inches high; the rib ſmooth, ſlender, and brittle, at firſt of a pale green colour, when old of a purpliſh brown, and gloſſy, naked for about one-third part of their length from the ground; outline of the firſt leaf lance-ſhaped, broader at the baſe, narrow at the point.

Second leaves eight or ten pairs placed oppoſite, remote, broadeſt at the baſe, gradually diminiſhing in breadth to the extremity, and drawing nearer and nearer each other to the top of the firſt leaf.

Lobes